



Expand and Enhance the Educational Experience for Students

AEE Mission – The Association for Excellence in Education exists to expand and enhance the educational experience for all students in the Tupelo Public School District, as well as foster the most creative learning environment.

AEE grants are reviewed by AEE board members and community members on a 11 category rubric and rated on each component from 0-3 points. In particular, teachers who are writing AEE grants should think about how their grant idea is innovative, impacts student learning, evaluates performance, and justifies the funding request. It is important to not use acronyms or teacher terminology that could be confusing as most grant reviewers are not educators. Finally, it is important the grant is professionally presented.

What are examples of AEE grant requests that won't be funded based on not aligning with the mission?

- **Varied Seating / Tables** – Swivel chairs, bean bags, different table options, etc.
- **Facility Updates / Equipment** – Facility related expenditures, including adding a kitchen with oven/refrigerator, calming room with new electrical lights, or laundry room with washer and dryer.
- **Student Safety** – Requests for items required for safety.
- **Therapy Pets** – Veterinary bills, food, and toys for therapy pets.
- **Gardens** – Garden equipment, material, or beautification requests.
- **Technology for the sake of Technology** – Technology requests need to be age appropriate and include a clear connection to student learning and impact.
- **Sustaining Grants** – Ongoing maintenance of past grants (ex. Glowforge materials or art supplies)
- **\$10,000+ Grants for One School** – AEE's policy only allows for a maximum grant request of under \$10,000. If you write for over this amount, then at least 2 schools must benefit.

If you are a teacher reading this and your grant idea fits in one of the above categories, then think about how you can revamp your application to better align with AEE's innovative mission. Connect with your principal or AEE school liaison board member to talk about your idea, and review the list of ideas below.

What can be funded by an AEE grant? Innovative ideas for the classroom!

- **Materials Above and Beyond Basic Needs** - What are materials, equipment, or experiences that go above and beyond what is required for your classroom? Think outside the box!
- **Real World Experiences** – Do you want to create real world experiences for your students by bringing career connections in your classroom? Great!
- **Joy, Coupled with Academics** – Let's make learning FUN again rather than focusing on assessments.
- **Arts Integration Experiences** – MAC Model Schools receive **\$2,500** annually and MAC Whole Schools receive **\$5,000** annually through MAC grants to support teaching artists, arts materials, and travel to school visits and annual conferences. Consideration for arts integration materials will be considered for both programs with a heightened awareness for Model Schools based on their limited grants support. AEE will consider requests for teaching artists and materials.
- **Field Trip Experiences** – AEE grants can be used to fund field trips offered for large groups of students (ex. a grade level at a school). Admission fees, food, and transportation costs will be considered. AEE does have a policy to not fund over \$200 per bus, and overnight field trips requests for hotel rooms won't be funded.
- **Sustainability Grants** – Grants that align with the AEE mission and that receive funding three years in a row will be considered for a modified Sustainability Program application. The current example of this is the "Launching Leaders" grant at Milam Elementary.